

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An articulator for positioning a tool during a surgical procedure,
2 comprising:
3 a longitudinally extending body;
4 a plurality of transverse grooves extending inwardly from opposite lateral
5 sides of the longitudinally extending body; and
6 a plurality of recesses extending inwardly from the opposite lateral sides of
7 the longitudinally extending body, the plurality of recesses defining an articulation
8 control wire lumen and a tool control wire lumen, and wherein the tool control lumen is
9 disposed collinear with a neutral bending axis of the articulator.

1 2. The articulator of claim 1, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 inwardly from each of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 3. The articulator of claim 1, wherein the plurality of recesses extend
2 inwardly from the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 4. The articulator of claim 1, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 further inwardly from one of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending
3 body than from the other opposite side of the longitudinally extending body.

1 5. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, innermost ends of the
2 transverse grooves are rounded.

1 6. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, the longitudinally extending
2 body is generally cylindrical.

1 7. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, the articulator is integrally
2 formed as a single monolithic block of material.

1 8. The articulator of claim 7, wherein, the articulator is injection
2 molded.

1 9. The articulator of claim 7, wherein, the articulator is formed by
2 stereolithography.

1 10. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, the therapeutic tool is selected
2 from the group consisting of a scraper, a curette, a grasper, forceps, and scissors.

1 11. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, the plurality of transverse
2 grooves are spaced evenly apart along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 12. The articulator of claim 1, wherein, the plurality of transverse
2 grooves are spaced unevenly apart along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 13. The articulator of claim 12, wherein, the plurality of transverse
2 grooves are spaced progressively closer together towards a distal end of the longitudinally
3 extending body.

1 14. The articulator of claim 12, further comprising:
2 a tool control wire received in the tool control wire lumen; and
3 an articulator control wire received in the articulation control wire lumen.

1 15. An articulator for positioning a tool during a surgical procedure,
2 comprising:
3 a longitudinally extending body;
4 a plurality of transverse grooves extending inwardly from opposite lateral
5 sides of the longitudinally extending body; and
6 a plurality of recesses extending inwardly from the opposite sides of the
7 longitudinally extending body, wherein the plurality of recesses define a central control
8 wire lumen, and wherein one side of the central control wire lumen is disposed collinear
9 with a neutral bending axis of the articulator.

1 16. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 inwardly from each of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 17. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the plurality of recesses extend
2 inwardly from the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 18. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 further inwardly from one of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending
3 body than from the other opposite side of the longitudinally extending body.

1 19. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the articulator is integrally
2 formed as a single monolithic block of material.

1 20. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the central control wire lumen
2 is dimensioned to receive both an articulation control wire and a tool control wire
3 therethrough.

1 21. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the central control wire lumen
2 has a racetrack-shaped cross section.

1 22. The articulator of claim 15, wherein the central control wire lumen
2 has a keyhole-shaped cross section.

1 23. An articulator for positioning a tool during a surgical procedure,
2 comprising:
3 a longitudinally extending body;
4 a plurality of transverse grooves extending inwardly from opposite sides of
5 the longitudinally extending body;
6 a tool control wire lumen extending longitudinally through the
7 longitudinally extending body, the tool control wire lumen being collinear with a neutral
8 bending axis of the articulator; and
9 an articulation control wire lumen disposed parallel to the tool control wire
10 lumen.

1 24. The articulator of claim 23, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 inwardly from each of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 25. The articulator of claim 23, wherein the plurality of recesses extend
2 inwardly from the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending body in an
3 alternating manner along the length of the longitudinally extending body.

1 26. The articulator of claim 23, wherein the transverse grooves extend
2 further inwardly from one of the opposite lateral sides of the longitudinally extending
3 body than from the other opposite side of the longitudinally extending body.

1 27. The articulator of claim 23, wherein the articulator is integrally
2 formed as a single monolithic block of material.

1 28. The articulator of claim 27, wherein, the articulator is injection
2 molded.

1 29. The articulator of claim ²⁷~~27~~, wherein, the articulator is formed by
2 steriolithography.

1 30. The articulator of claim 23, wherein, the therapeutic tool is selected
2 from the group consisting of a scraper, a curette, a grasper, forceps, and scissors.

1 31. The articulator of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a tool control wire received in the tool control wire lumen; and
3 an articulator control wire received in the articulation control wire lumen.

1 32. The articulator of claim 23, wherein, the tool control wire lumen is
2 dimensioned to open into innermost ends of the transverse grooves extending inwardly
3 from each of the opposite lateral sides.

1 33. The articulator of claim 32, wherein, the neutral bending axis
2 passes mid-way between innermost ends of opposite transverse grooves.

1 34. The articulator of claim 23, wherein, the articulation control wire
2 lumen passes through the transverse grooves extending from only one side of the
3 longitudinally extending body.

1 35. The articulator of claim 23, wherein, the innermost ends of the
2 transverse grooves extending from the opposite lateral sides extend past one another.